



**CITY OF LAMBERTVILLE
VOTING SESSION MEETING
JANUARY 21, 2021, 7:00 P.M.
VIRTUAL MEETING
USING THE ZOOM MEETING PLATFORM
MINUTES**

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Mayor Fahl called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. The City Clerk read the statement of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act into the record.

This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act with the annual meeting notice advertised in the Trenton Times, the meeting notice was provided on Monday, January 18, 2021 to the Hunterdon County Democrat, the Trenton Times, various individuals on the list serve, department heads and the City Engineer and City Attorney.

This meeting will be recorded using Zoom.

The meeting agenda offers the planned action items of the Governing Body to the extent known at the time of publication.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilwoman Lambert, Councilman Sanders, Councilman Stegman, Council President Taylor, Mayor Fahl.

Also present: William Opel – City Attorney, Cynthia Ege – City Clerk, Kristina Majeski – Deputy Clerk.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Fahl asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and to continue standing for a Moment of Silence in honor of those serving in the United States Armed Forces and for those serving on the front lines of COVID.

II. MEETING MINUTES

The December 8, 2020 Open and Closed Session Minutes were held over to the February 18, 2021 session to give the City Attorney time to review the required number of votes for approval.

Mayor Fahl asked for a motion to adopt the following sets of minutes: December 17, 2020 Open Session, December 17, 2020 Closed Session, December 22, 2020 Open Session and December 22, 2020 Closed Session Minutes. Councilwoman Taylor made the motion and Councilman seconded the motion. An affirmative roll call/voice vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present with Councilwoman Lambert and Councilman Stegman abstaining.

The following minutes will be voted on the February 18, 2021 session: January 5, 2021 Reorganization Session, January 15, 2021 Retreat, and. January 15, 2021 Closed Session Minutes.

RESOLUTIONS

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Consent Agenda: *The following resolutions on a consent agenda are considered routine and shall be enacted by one motion. Should any member of City Council seek separate discussion of any item, that item shall be removed and discussed separately.*

Mayor Fahl asked for a motion to approve Resolution Numbers 29-2021 through 34-2021, appearing on the consent agenda.

Resolution Number 29-2021: *A Resolution to Amend Resolution Number 03-2021, the 2021 Meeting Schedule, Changing the June Work Session to Tuesday, June 1, 2021.*

RESOLUTION NO: 29-2021

A Resolution to Amend Resolution Number 03-2021, the 2021 Meeting Schedule, Changing the June Work Session to Tuesday, June 1, 2021

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the City of Lambertville that the 2021 Meeting Schedule is hereby amended to reflect a change in the June Work Session to June 1, 2021.

ADOPTED: January 21, 2021

RESOLUTION NUMBER 30-2021: *A Resolution to Authorize the Redemption of a Lien for Block 1031, Lot 6, in the Amount of \$11,515.68, plus A Premium in the Amount of \$32,200.00.*

RESOLUTION NUMBER 30-2021

A Resolution Authorizing the Redemption of a Tax Lien for Block 1031, Lot 6 In the Amount of

\$11,515.68 Plus a Premium in the Amount of 32,200.00.

WHEREAS, Tax Lien Certificate 20-00007 issued on Block 1031 Lot 6 was sold to Bala Partners LLC, PO BOX 303 Pottersville, NJ 07979 on 10-19-20 and

WHEREAS, payment has been received by the Tax Collector for redemption of the tax lien the property owner.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by Mayor and Council of the City of Lambertville, in the County of Hunterdon, in the State of New Jersey that the check is hereby authorized to Bala Partners LLC, PO BOX 303 Pottersville, NJ 07979 for the redemption of tax lien certificate #20-00007 in the amount of: \$ 11,515.68.

In addition, the City is holding a premium in the amount of \$32,200.00.

and upon redemption this is due back to the lienholder.

2 checks for the lienholder –

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WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Chief Financial Officer that the following checks be canceled:

Chk Id Emp Id	Chk Date Name	Chk Type	Pay Prd End	Gross Amount	Check Amount
30387	06/28/13 HAWKINS HAWKINS, DAMIEN	Reg	06/21/13	32.63	29.49
31935	07/11/14 WINTSON Winston, Cory M	Reg	07/04/14	20.63	18.63
32797	02/20/15 HALLTARI HALL, TARIS	Reg	02/13/15	1.88	1.72
32905	03/20/15 DANIELS DANIELS, DAVID	Reg	03/13/15	58.66	53.58
32982	04/02/15 CROSSLAN CROSSLAND, MICHAEL K	Reg	03/27/15	46.09	42.32
33162	05/15/15 WINTHERC WINTHER, CHRISTOPHER R	Otr	05/08/15	0.00	42.09
34690	05/27/16 STITESD STITES, DENNIS R	Otr	05/20/16	20.66	18.66
35651	01/06/17 BOYDISAI BOYD, ISIAH W	Reg	12/30/16	41.90	38.42
35696	01/20/17 VANGLAHN VANGLAHN, THOMAS E	Reg	01/13/17	36.00	32.51
35717	01/20/17 KORZUN KORZUN, JEANNA	Reg	01/13/17	85.00	76.76
36728	09/15/17 CARROLLJ CARROLL, JAMAAR V	Reg	09/08/17	33.76	30.50
37021	11/22/17 HOLLAND HOLLAND, LARRY D	Reg	11/17/17	240.54	217.27

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NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the City of Lambertville that the City's Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to cancel the checks listed above in the amounts specified.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 32-2021: *A Resolution to Authorize the Refund of Escrow to Steve Williamson for his application to the Planning Board for 5 Kline's Court in the Amount of \$865.61.*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the City of Lambertville in the County of Hunterdon, in the State of New Jersey that the refund of the escrow balance in the account established by Steve Williamson for 5 Kline's Court in the Amount of \$865.61 is here by authorized.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 33-2021: *A Resolution to Authorize the Contracts for the Hosting of the Website/Forms/Social Media Archiving with SHI in an Amount Not to Exceed \$8,916.00, Email Support and Consulting (\$900.00), Google for Email \$12.60 per Email Account.*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the City of Lambertville, in the County of Hunterdon, in the State of New Jersey that the following contracts for 2021 are hereby authorized:

SDL for the hosting of the website, electronic forms, social media archiving in an amount not to exceed \$8,916.00;

Flanagan Productions, LLC for email support and consulting in an amount not to exceed \$900.00;

Google for individual emails and Google Vault system in an amount not to exceed \$12.60 per email.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 34-2021: *A Resolution to Authorize the County of Hunterdon Municipal Alliance Grant, As Amended.*

RESOLUTION NUMBER 34-2021

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, The City Council of the City of Lambertville, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore, has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council has applied for funding to the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Hunterdon;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Lambertville, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The City Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the South Hunterdon Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year R 2021 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$ 4,174.00
Cash Match	\$ 1,043.50
In-Kind	\$ 3,130.50

2. The City Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.
3. The City Council further acknowledges that the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission shall act as Fiscal Agent to all Hunterdon County Municipal Alliance Consortiums to provide a streamlined process for the reimbursement of expenditures.

Councilman Stegman made the motion and Councilman Sanders seconded the motion. An affirmative roll call/voice vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION NUMBER 35-2021: *A Resolution to Appoint the Green Team for Sustainable Jersey Projects.*

Mayor Fahl asked for a motion to approve Resolution Number 35-2021, appointing a Green Team for Sustainable Jersey.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 35-2021

A Resolution to Establish a Green Team Pursuant to Sustainable Jersey

WHEREAS, the governing body of the City of Lambertville strives to save tax dollars, assure clean air and water, improve working and living environments, and build a community that is sustainable economically, environmentally, and socially; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the City of Lambertville wishes to build a model of government which benefits its residents with green community initiatives which are environmentally and economically sound, easy to replicate, and affordable to implement; and

WHEREAS, in an attempt to focus on green issues, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Lambertville wishes to re-establish a Green Team;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Lambertville, in the County of Hunterdon, in the State of New Jersey, that the Green Team will be

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comprised of the following membership which will be nominated by the Mayor and confirmed by Council:

Council Representative: Benedetta Lambert, with Julia Taylor serving as a consultant.
Environmental Commission Representative: Liz Magill Peer
Shade Tree Commission Representative: Brian Herzhauser
The City Clerk: Cynthia Ege
The Public Works Director: Lester Myers
Volunteer: Keziah Groth-Tuft

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the purpose of the Green Team is to:

- facilitate the successful completion of the requirements for re-certification of Sustainable Jersey;
- educate and encourage all city employees, residents, and businesses to participate in green initiatives;
- collaborate with public and private green committees to ensure the replication of best practices and to ensure a coordinated effort within the City of Lambertville;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Green Team will consist of no more than 13 members who will serve a three-year term.

ADOPTED: January 21, 2021

Councilman Sanders made the motion and Councilwoman Lambert seconded the motion. An affirmative roll call/voice vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present.

III. BILLS LISTS

Mayor Fahl asked for a motion to approve the Bills list. Councilman Sanders made the motion and Councilwoman Lambert seconded the motion. An affirmative roll call/voice vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present.

IV. BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Planning Board – Class II appointment which is reserved for an employee or representative from a different board.

Mayor Fahl nominated Paul Rotondi to serve on Planning Board in the Class II position.

Councilman Sanders made the motion to confirm Mayor Fahl's nomination. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion. An affirmative roll call/voice vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present.

V. ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

None.

VI. ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

None

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VII. COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEES/COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

DOG AND CAT LICENSES are due no later than Friday, February 26 to avoid the late fee. Please include a copy of your pet's valid rabies vaccination.

PARKING STICKERS expired 12/31/2020! You must reside in front of a metered parking space; the vehicle must be owned by you and your license and registration must be tied to the address UNLESS you own property elsewhere. Questions? Call Tina at 609-397-0110, ext. 12.

IX. HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL DISCUSSION ON POLICE ENFORCEMENT

Mayor Fahl acknowledge the work of the HRC. Mayor Fahl thanked Ms. Marino and Beth Asaro for community outreach, and not reacting to acts across the country but putting this into context. She thanked Lt Brown, who has been a partner in this. An incredible amount of work for both the Lambertville Police Department and the members of the Human Rights Council. This has not been taken lightly or without thought. The presentation is a result of significant manpower of staff and volunteers. She introduced Lt. Brown and Roni Todd Marino, Chair of the HRC, who were present.

Roni Todd-Marino, Chair of HRC and Lt. Robert Brown, Officer-in Charge of the Police Department, and a member of the HRC reviewed the recommendations and gave background information on how we got to this point. The HRC was charged with in June of 2020 with the mission of evaluating the role of the police in our community and negative impacts on our City and of people of color. This took a lot of time and thought, we looked at the broad of racism in Lambertville. The members of the Human Rights Council devoted 65 hours of meetings, research, experts, reaching out to get as much info as possible and all of this is represented in this document. Ms. Todd-Marino recognized Beth Asaro and for her partnership in leading this.

The process started with Lt. Brown sharing information gathered by the police department, sharing progressive strategies as directed by Attorney General; reviewed police statistics, (people of color), recognized it was limited by the fact that LPD collects demographic data regarding police stops, and the way it was captured was not easy to access. The County Prosecutor's office has allocated funding for a CAD uniformly and electronically which will be used in ongoing reviews. HRC was able to confirm there were no egregious acts and saw no evidence of excessive use of force. They fully recognize that antiracism is not by one review and this is not one and done effort, but instead an ongoing effort. The group will advocate for a deeper review of anything that supports anti-racism. They also wanted feedback from residents They hosted a session in October, minutes were forwarded to the members of the Governing Body. Each of the recommendations is made within a context and draws solutions proposed by Black Lives Matter.

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Concern from the Governing Body included: accuracy of data because the size sample is important. Guidance from AG on best practices, maybe some civil rights groups, will give more thought; pushing out meaningful information is important, but we do not want to not lead people down the wrong path. What does “Rooting Out Racism” mean? Identify areas that we can improve as a community, not individuals, but as thoughtful leaders and policy directors have an opportunity and responsibility on what we know to be a national conversation about race in every one of our communities. That is what our goal is, concern is about the path. The goal is a safe, welcoming, and healthy places to live. City is committed to working with Hunterdon Healthcare for service crisis care, to ensure that this type of social work is done in conjunction with this municipality so that when this happens, there are trained personnel to assist the Police Department. Their personnel is trained in sexual assault and rape crisis.

Question was asked about what happens when a 911 call comes in. Lt Brown commented that Hunterdon Healthcare has a mobile outreach and if it is a nonemergency or nonviolent issue, they call the Public Assistance Director. Ms. Todd-Marino commented that the HRC would like to see expanded case management, it is about doing paperwork with people. Helping people understand what they are eligible for which is different from mobile outreach.

Questions arose about training for CERT Team. Volunteer hours for cert train for traffic control for an eventual emergency.

Mayor Fahl thanked them for their presentation. This is not a one and done, council will review recommendations and will make changes. This is a commitment we are all making to grow, learn and change to make our community more welcoming and a safe place to be.

Open to public:

Elycia Lerman: make sure that when we look at some of these recommendations that we look at the services provided by Norwescap with respect to case management. Knowing residents puts us out of the rest of the programming. Look at holistically at case management and look at making sure we are connected to everything that is available.

Filomena Hengst: invited the members of the Governing Body to a Board of Education meeting scheduled for Monday at 6 pm to discuss facilities.

Kelly Bolding: she heard several positive things, nonpolice crisis, ordinances, communications. Black lives matters has inspired this review and they are asking that we examine and reduce police budgets. She asked that the governing body look for strategies to reinvest away from policing and into other strategies. Cannot be considered complete until we look into police budget – redistribute to other initiatives. Mayor Fahl commented that every year City Council and Mayor review all of the department budgets. They are committed in a new and reinvigorated way with the public. We will start our budget conversations in February of this year with a review of department budgets with department heads.

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Jeanna Korzun: asked if the City was going to hire new people or train people to be managers? Mayor Fahl responded that the City is not hiring new employees. Ms. Korzun commented that the Public Assistance Director does a lot with a little and would you defund the police, or appropriate additional funds the Public Assistance Director or would this mean creating a new position? Mayor Fahl responded while I can appreciate this is a national movement, when we say things like defunding police, what we are talking about members of our community, in public jobs who dedicated their lives to provision of service, when we say defund police, we are talking about firing them. She appreciate more access to public services, and it has been clear from HRC and from police that we are interested and willing to working together. Jeanna commented that it is not firing them, but instead demilitarizing them.

Leah Hunt: a resident of Stockton who works in Lambertville. Her main concern was with the presence of police on the Human Rights Council, in appropriate considering safe space to talk about issues, you should not expect them to say it to the police officer. Black lives matter and she asked the City to dig deeper about the role of policing in this community.

Council President Taylor responded that people are welcome to organize events and it does not have to be the Human Rights Council. While we want to have a robust public communication, sometimes these official meetings are not the place to do the deep digging. She invite the advocates to put together events, it does not have to be at these meetings, 6 and 7 at night might not be a great time for them. So how do we make sure we are creating forums for them?

Paul Stevens: questioned if the City was able to hire someone fluent in Spanish? Mayor Fahl commented that Lambertville is a small police department, and we offer a less than competitive wage than other areas in Mercer County. The goal is to hire fluent bi-lingual officer.

Chris Register commented that he is worried about data cited because it seems to suggest there is no systemic racism, stress that absence of evidence is not absence. People in our community would paint a different picture. He asked that the firearms be removed and felt it would help prevent escalation and would help make many of our community feel safer. Mayor Fahl respond that carrying of firearms is a state mandate.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Fahl asked for public comment.

Matthew Hanson: Mr. Hanson referenced an article he read regarding Flemington Borough canceling the contract with the City for a shared services agreement for a Business Administrator. Mayor Fahl explained that the interim candidates felt it would be too much to work in two municipalities. She informed the members of the public that the City is looking for a company to serve as an interim. Mr. Hanson asked what the budget was, and Mayor Fahl responded \$120,000.

Paul Stevens: questioned the numbers presented for the Closson property. Mayor Fahl responded that the difference between tax impact and actually being taxed, we are reallocating that \$.63 so

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zero net. Mayor Fahl suggested that they meet to review and to give her an opportunity to explain the worksheets. Council President Taylor suggested the City look for a third party who could help us describe this so that we can work to help build a base of understanding. Mayor Fahl commented that she worked with multiple third-party vendors including Rutgers, Rowen, NJ Policy Perspectives, I would guess 7 or 8 people.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Fahl asked for a motion to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. Councilman Sanders made the motion and Council President Taylor seconded the motion. An affirmative roll call/voice vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Ege

Cynthia L. Ege
CMR, RMC, City Clerk

Approved at the February 18, 2021 Voting Session of the Governing Body.